(d) and (e) Reserve Bank of India has reported that though no study has been undertaken by it or by any one else on its behalf on the officers requirements of the Bank, an Expert Committee appointed by it on Human Resources Development in its report given in January, 1992 made several recommendations in the HRD area including formulation of an Early Retirement Scheme initially for officers to be extended to other employees, in due course.

ITC Management taken over by Fincial Institutions

6043. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Financial Institutions have taken over the management of ITC Limited;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Financial Institutions propose to appoint a new Chairman of ITC; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Pushing the country into global system

6044. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt's attention has been drawn to the news-items published in the 'Indian Express' dated the 26th February 1995 according to which a leading economist cautioned Government against the perils of pushing the country too fast into the global system; and

(b) If so, the reaction of Government and the steps taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Indian Express published a news item captioned "Economicsts warn Government against pushing India into global system' 'on the 26th February, 1995. The news item relates to a statement issued by a group of economists, in which it is claimed that the stablisation and adjustment programmes have led to a decline in the rate of economic growth associated with an increase in unemployment and worsening of poverty, and continuing inflation. It claims that the improvement in the balance of payment is illusory. It also criticises foreign investment proposals in power, petroleum and telecommunications, the manner of public sectors disinvestment, increase in procurement prices etc.

(b) The Government does not agree with the assessment made by the Economists. Significant improvement have taken place in all sectors of the economy in the post-policy period. The overall economic growth in terms of leal GDP has improved from 0.9 per cent in 1991-92 to 4.3 ptr cent in each of the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and is estimated to be 5.3 per cent in 1994-95. The addtiional employment generation has improved from 3 million in 1991-92 to 6 million on an average per year in 1992-93 and 1993-94, with prospects for a larger rise in 1994-95. The annual increase in the stock of external debt declined from $ 8.1 billion in 1990-91 to $ 0.7 billion in 1993-94. The stock of external debt actually declined by $ 270 million in the first half of 1994-95. The rate of inflation which peaked at almost 17 per cent during 1991 has declinined to 8.6 percent as on 29th April, 1995. The Government has also introduced several structural reforms in the infrastructure sector to attract private investment including foreign investment.

However, recognising that fruits of growth will take time to reach some of the poorest and weakest sections of our society and to ensure that they too derive benefit in the short run the Government has given the highest priority to strengthening programmes of rural development, employment generation, primary education, primary health and other key